

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512



December 8, 1998

Dear Workshop Participants:

**SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 1998 PITTSBURG DISTRICT ENERGY
FACILITY (98-AFC-1) DATA REQUEST WORKSHOP**

Enclosed is the staff's summary of the Pittsburg District Energy Facility data request workshop that was held in Pittsburg on November 19, 1998. This summary is an informal record of the discussions that took place. It has been distributed to all project staff and to all other participants identified on the participant list attached to the summary. The summary provides the meeting participants with the opportunity to correct information that was misunderstood in the hope of having good communication and an efficient process. If you would like to make any comments or additions to the summary, please send them to me in writing. I will see that they are placed in the project file and that the appropriate staff and other meeting participants receive them. Please call me at (916) 654-4075 or e-mail at lwhite@energy.ca.state.us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lorraine White
Siting Project Manager
California Energy Commission
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Attachment

cc: Proof of Service

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California Energy Commission Pittsburg District Energy Facility 98-AFC-1

Meeting Summary

RE: Energy Commission Staff Data Request Workshop
November 19, 1998

I. Introduction

Eileen Allen opened the workshop and introduced Lorraine White as the new project manager as of December 1, 1998. Sam Wehn, representing the applicant for Pittsburg District Energy Facility (PDEF), summarized the changes to the proposal that have been made since the last public events held September 3&4, 1998. The changes consist of:

- a planned electric transmission line route running south and west from the project site to connect with PG&E's existing substation at its Pittsburg power plant; and
- flipping the project plot plan to orient the stacks to the east, in response to public requests; and
- facility design changes to make the power plant operation more quiet, in response to public and Energy Commission staff concerns regarding nighttime noise levels; and
- an increase in the planned use of an auxiliary boiler which will lead to the applicant purchasing PM10 air emission offsets.

Mr. Wehn also stated that the applicant and the Delta Diablo Water Treatment Facility (DDWTF) staff have reached a "workable" water solution for using reclaimed water for cooling. The applicant is also negotiating offset credits for PM10, NOx and VOCs. PG&E completed a draft interconnection study on which both the applicant and the Independent System Operator have commented. The applicant plans to submit detailed information on the above project changes to the Energy Commission on December 7, 1998.

Mr. Barratt, representing the Bay Harbor Homeowners Association, asked Mr. Wehn for clarification on the reasons for the plot plan flip. Mr. Wehn responded

that the members of the public requesting the flip seemed primarily concerned with noise and visual impacts.

Joe Patch, representing the applicant discussed engineering particulars.

- Referring to updated visual simulations and photographs, Mr. Patch said the planned facility has been turned 180 degrees with the stacks on the east and the switchyard on the west. New visual simulations will show the re-orientation of the plant footprint (as requested for the visual and noise analysis).
- Map 3.2-1 is the major frame of discussion in the AFC and it is being revised, albeit that the power plant location remains unchanged.
- The gasline (re: SP5 route) will still be tying in at the location identified in the AFC; however, there are several lines in the existing PG&E easement. Minor changes will be proposed to accommodate easement locations.
- The transmission line route for interconnection is no longer to the east, but will instead travel west along 8th street. The proposed line will run southwest of the project site above ground from the power plant to the corner of Harbor and 8th St. on U.S.S.-Posco property. Just east of the intersection of Harbor and 8th St., the transmission line's underground segment would begin. This segment would run west along 8th St. until it reaches the PG&E Pittsburgh power plant property, at which point the line would be aboveground again until it connected with the substation. The line remains a 115 kV line. Visual simulations of the new proposal will be included in the package to be filed with staff. The applicant is also working with the city to coordinate median stripe beautification on 8th St.
- The construction lay-down area has been moved to the east slightly.
- The applicant is looking at a 14th St. route for the tertiary treated water line. The wastewater discharge will be delivered to DDWTF under an industrial discharger's pre-treatment permit from the district. The DDWTF has discussed the use of tertiary treated water for industrial uses with the regional water board in the districts National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit update/re-issue. The board has indicated that such arrangements can be done under the permit without making any changes to it.
- The electromagnetic field (EMF) study will be done once the route has been finalized which will not occur until after the interconnection study is complete.
- The proposal for the bypass road has not changed and the applicant hopes to begin construction the day the Energy Commission issues its certificate. This will give the applicant about a two month lead-time on the road so that it can be used for construction of the power plant.
- A citizens advisory group has been formed. It will have 13 members (11 have already been selected) consisting of 5 representatives of the city council, member of the chamber of commerce, an environmental organization representative, a representative from labor, and the homeowner associations. Meetings will begin in December 1998. Mr. Barratt noted that he has been asked to participate in this group, representing the Bay Harbor Homeowners.

Eileen Allen asked whether the group included representatives from the Central Addition area (i.e., the Harbor and 8th St. neighborhood). The applicant stated that residents from the Central Addition area had been invited to participate and that they were working to find an individual (or several) who could represent the neighborhood on the advisory group.

Mr. Barratt noted that a ham radio user who lives near the corner of Harbor and 8th, and owns about 4 or 5 parcels in that neighborhood, might have some concerns regarding electrical interference and electronic noise. He also noted some concerns regarding electromagnetic field (EMF) effects and the adequacy of EMF-shielding for the underground line in the Harbor/8th St. area neighborhood.

He also mentioned that the bypass road has been discussed for many years and it would be preferable if the applicant could guarantee that the road would be built prior to any plant construction.

Joan Heredia from Woodward-Clyde, consultant to the applicant discussed air quality particulars.

- The applicant has asked the consultant to analyze lowering stack height from 175 feet to 150 feet (proposed to reduce visual impacts). Preliminary modeling data shows only negligible increases in emissions. By lowering the stacks, it was found that the fall of emissions is closer to the ground but the distribution doesn't change. She can produce isopleth charts that show the project's air quality impact areas, given topographic features and local weather patterns.
- With the changes in design, the consultant has redone all the modeling data and found that the greatest impact is still on the north side of New York Slough and in the Brown's Island vicinity. Note: Cooling tower height is not changing.

Jack Hall, representing the City of Antioch, asked whether Woodward-Clyde could produce a diagram of the plume resulting from the 150-foot stack height. Ms. Heredia responded that she could do this, including comparative isopleths showing the air quality impact differences between the 150 and 175-foot stack heights.

- The applicant has received updated actual information from the water district that shows the reclaimed water will have less total dissolved solids (tds) than originally expected. This will result in fewer impacts associated with the cooling tower – approximately a 25% reduction of emissions from tds. Note: the cycling of the cooling towers is not likely to change.
- Originally the applicant requested that the project be permitted for 2.5 ppm of NOx with the flexibility to go to 3 ppm NOx. The applicant now is only seeking a flat 2.5 ppm NOx emissions rate. The district standard is a 3 hour

rolling average. (A member of the public requested information on the health affects of NOx and other emissions.)

Mr. Wehn said that the air quality emission offsets required by the air district rules will be purchased within the next two months. Mr. Barratt suggested that the applicant pay for PG&E's Pittsburg power plant, or another local source, to clean up an existing source of emissions. The advantage of this would be that the offsets would be near the project.

- Boiler capacity and time of operation will be increasing to satisfy needs of the steam host, U.S.S.-Posco. Therefore, emissions are expected to increase. It is still not yet defined how much operation and timing will increase.
- PM10 emissions from the turbines were originally defined at 13.5 lbs./hr, but the vendor will only guarantee 17 lbs./hr. The consultant has redone the emissions information for the turbines.

Mr. Hall asked whether the air quality analysis could include data from a monitoring station in Martinez, since many emissions from that area are blown east to Pittsburg. Ms. Heredia said she thought gathering data from Martinez was possible. The current analysis has data from a Concord monitoring station, per the directions of the air district.

Rob Greene, Woodward-Clyde's noise specialist, discussed noise-related modifications to the proposal.

- As a result of staff and community concerns, the applicant has made several modifications to the facility to reduce the noise output. These modifications are expected to reduce the noise output by 10 decibels.
- The current background is 45 decibels and the plant is modeled to be 47 decibels with the modifications. Measurements are for the nighttime average and the quietest hour. The changes ensure that the projects does not increase noise by greater than 5 decibels or 55 decibels at 500 feet.
- Modifications include silencers at the turbines and release valves, cladding on pipes, exhaust duct barriers, and enclosures around the turbines.
- The applicant was particularly concerned with the control of tonals in making these modifications.
- The frequency responses are A weighted (20 hertz-2000 hertz).
- Modeling and modifications information is complete and will be included in the applicant's Dec. 7th submittal.

Paul Causey of the DDWTF said that the applicant will be returning water to the treatment plant, with no water being sent directly to the outfall. Therefore, there will be no need to secure a new NPDES permit, or to involve the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Eileen Allen asked Mr. Wehn whether the applicant was pursuing contract negotiations with DDWTF for delivery and treatment of reclaimed water. Mr. Wehn responded that he was and he hoped to conclude the negotiations soon.

II. Data Requests / Discussion Items

Air Quality

Guido Franco, Energy Commission staff conducting the air quality analysis, summarized his Air Quality Data Request #11 and asked the applicant's representatives if they had any questions. The representatives understood the request and intend to submit an "offset package" in two months, including PM offsets. However, ENRON is reluctant to provide information regarding quantity and location of offsets. With this response, Guido Franco stated that Air Quality Data Request #12 no longer applies.

In the applicant's Dec. 7 filing, information regarding the following changes that affect the air quality analysis will be included:

1. Modeling data related to the analysis of the stack height reduction from 175 feet to 150 feet.
2. The 2.5 ppmvd (15% O₂) NO_x limit for the GT/HRSG trains without a request for flexibility to 3 ppmvd.
3. New air dispersion modeling analyses to reflect the change in facility orientation (a 180 degrees rotation).
4. Correction of data for the inlet water to the cooling towers. Actual measurement data indicates a TDS (total dissolved solid) content of 8.5 mg/l concentration instead of 12.15 mg/l (the estimate contained in the AFC).
5. Gas turbine vendors will warranty PM levels not lower than 17 lbs./hr, an increase of the emission rate assumed in the original application.
6. Estimates of the increase in the hourly operation for the auxiliary boiler to meet requirements of the project host and the appropriate modeling data.
7. Because of 5 and 6 above, the estimated total PM emissions from this project would be above 100 tons per year and therefore the applicant needs to provide PM offsets.

Members of the public were concerned about the possibility of having offset sources far from the proposed power plant and the potential increase of air quality impacts due to shorter stacks. The applicant indicated that they plan to include information on the changes of air quality impacts due to lower stacks.

Socioeconomics

Amanda Stennick, Energy Commission staff conducting the socio-economics analysis, briefly described the data requests made in the November 16, 1998 letter to the applicant and asked the applicant if they had any clarifying questions. Mr. Wehn stated that they understood the requests and will provide responses if possible in the December 7th filing, and, if not, certainly within the time frame allowed.

Ms. Stennick noted that the State Board of Equalization may become more involved in collection and distribution of taxes levied on electric power plants. Energy Commission staff need to study possible actions by the Board, the implications for the project, and any related socioeconomic costs/benefits that would affect the City of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Barratt asked about the amount of revenue that the City expected to receive resulting from its economic partnership with the applicant. Mr. Wehn responded that it would be a positive amount for the city, but that he could not get into specifics. Jeff Kolin, Pittsburgh City Manager, added that projected revenue numbers would be in flux until the deregulated electricity market becomes more active. Mr. Kolin stated he would mail a copy of the partnership agreement to Ms. Stennick.

Completed by Lorraine White, Project Manager

December 1, 1998

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November 19, 1998
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